

Certified Perennial Grass Varieties Recommended for Nebraska

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Bruce Anderson, Extension Forage Specialist
Mike Kucera, Resource Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Ken Vogel, Grass Geneticist, USDA Agricultural Research Service

More than 100 species of perennial grasses are adapted to and grown in Nebraska. They are classified as either "cool-season" or "warm-season" grasses.

Cool-season grasses grow rapidly during spring, often using most of the readily available soil moisture and nitrogen. They are nearly dormant during summer. Regrowth in late summer and fall occurs as cool temperatures and soil moisture return. Often they remain partly green throughout winter but will not grow until frosts become less frequent and less severe.

Warm-season grasses begin slow growth about one month later than cool-season grasses. Growth is rapid in late spring and early summer as these grasses make efficient use of available soil moisture and nutrients. Growth generally ceases by late summer or early fall although live, green tissue usually remains until a hard freeze kills all top growth.

Full season pasture programs usually benefit from having separate pastures of warm-season grasses and cool-season grasses. Both stocking rate and average daily gain can be increased 25 percent by grazing cool-season grasses in spring and fall and warm-season grasses in summer compared to grazing just one type of grass the entire growing season.

Mixtures containing cool- and warm-season grasses in the same pasture usually are impractical, except for certain range plantings. Good grazing management is difficult because livestock will selectively overgraze certain grasses while nearly avoiding other grasses. In addition, an uneven distribution of rainfall during the season will encourage growth of certain grasses while weakening other grasses.

Advantages of Recommended Varieties

The selection of adapted varieties can be just as critical to a successful seeding as the species choice. About 25 grass species in Nebraska are known to

have characteristics that make them valuable enough to develop improved varieties for new seedings. These species grow over broad geographic areas and have diverse genetic traits that help individual plants adapt to specific soil and site conditions.

Varieties of these species have been developed to perform significantly better in their adapted area than other varieties or natural wild strains. Adapted varieties are predictably superior in vigor, production, persistence, and resistance to insects and diseases within their area of adaptation.

Importance of Using Certified Seed

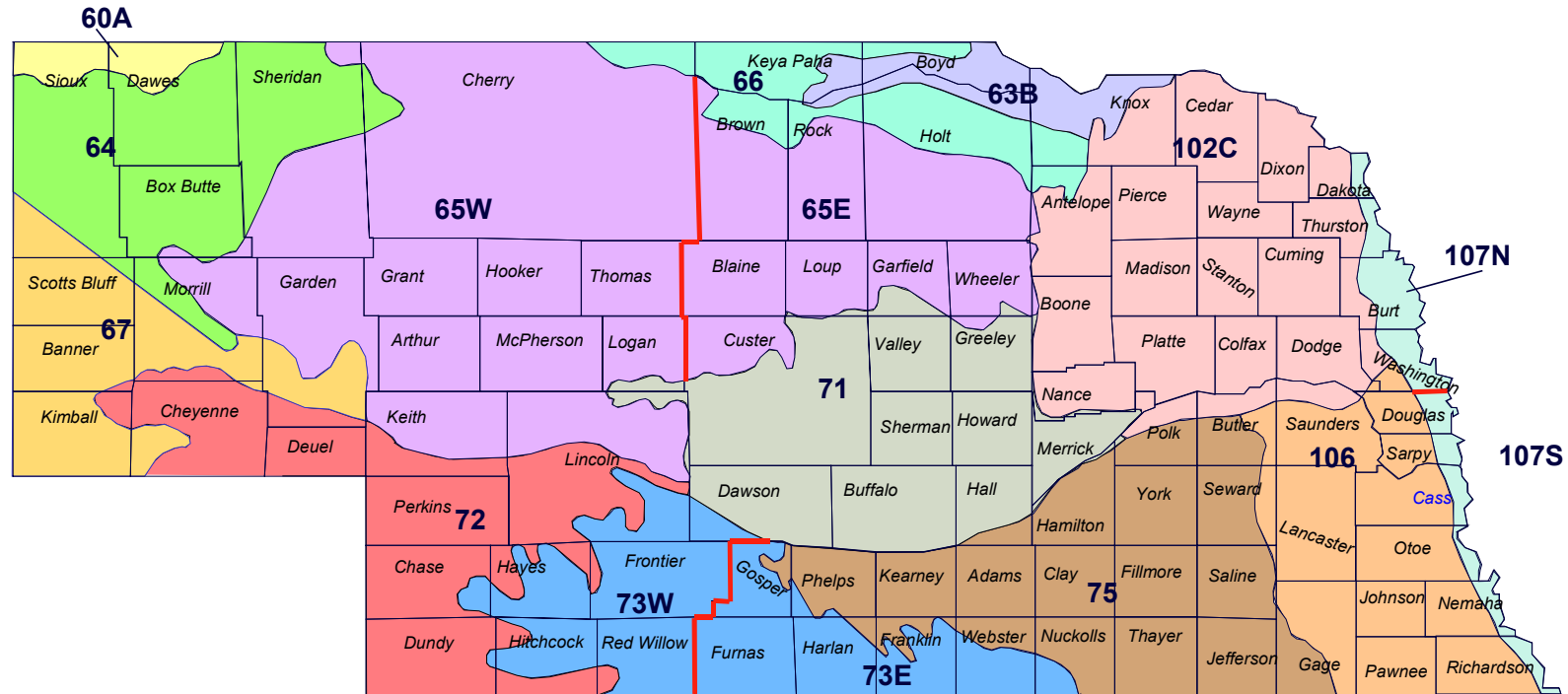
Planting certified seed assures the genetic purity and seed quality designated on the seed tag. Certified seed is planted, grown, harvested, processed, and marketed following strict standards. Inspections during production and processing help assure that these standards have been met. Only seed that meets these standards may carry the certified seed label. Planting seed of questionable or unknown origin and performance is a gamble that most people cannot afford.

Using the Map and Table

The following map, Major Land Resource Areas For Selecting Adapted Grass Species and Varieties, depicts 16 regions within the state. The table, Varieties of Grasses for Use in Major Land Resource Areas of Nebraska, shows which grass varieties are best adapted to different sites in each region. After identifying the region on the map, use the table to select an appropriate grass variety for your site. (Sites are further described in Footnote 2 of the table.) Grass varieties are listed alphabetically using two subheadings: Warm-season Grasses and Cool-season Grasses.

This most current version of this document is available at <http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov> (click on EFOTG, Section II, Statewide Interpretations, Pasture and Hayland Interpretations).

Nebraska's Major Land Resource Areas For Selecting Adapted Grass Species and Varieties



60A	Pierre Shale Plains and Badlands	72	Central High Tableland
63B	Southern Rolling Pierre Shale Plains	73E & W	Rolling Plains and Breaks
64	Mixed Sandy and Silty Tableland	75	Central Loess Plains
65E & W	Nebraska Sandhills	102C	Loess Uplands and Till Plains
66	Dakota-Nebraska Eroded Tableland	106	Nebraska and Kansas Loess Drift Hills
67	Central High Plains	107N & S	Iowa and Missouri Deep Loess Hills
71	Central Nebraska Loess Hills		

^{1, 2} Varieties of Grasses for Use in Major Land Resource Areas of Nebraska

Kind of grass and certified variety	Panhandle 60A, 64, 67	Southwest 72, 73W	Western Sandhills 65w	Eastern Sandhills 65E	North Central 63B, 66	Central 71	South Central 73E, 75	Northeast 102C, 107N	Southeast 106, 107S
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Cool-season Native Grasses

Canada Wildrye (note Mandan will be removed from the southern part of the state in the near future and replaced with better suited varieties)

Mandan	b i w a	—	b i w a	b i w a	b i w a	b w a	b w a	b w a	b w a
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Green Needlegrass

Lodorm	H S B	H S B	H s B	H s B	H S B	—	—	—	—
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Thickspike Wheatgrass

Critana	h s b	h s b	h s b	—	—	—	—	—	—
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Virginia Wildrye

Omaha	—	—	—	i w	i w	b i w	h b i w	h b i w	h b i w
Cuivre River				i w	i w	b i w	b i w	b i w	h b i w

Western Wheatgrass

Arriba	h s b i w a	h s b i w a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barton	h s b i w a	h s b i w a	h s b i w a	HSB i w A	HSB i w A	HSB i w A	HSB i w A	h s b i w a	h s b i w a
Flintlock	HSB i w A	HSB i w A	HSB i w A	h s b i w a	h s b i w a	H s b i w a	h s b i w a	h s b i w a	h s b i w a
Rodan	h s b i w a	—	h s b i w a	h s b i w a	h s b i w a	—	—	—	—
Walsh	h s b i w a	—	h s b i w a	h s b i w a	h s b i w a	—	—	—	—

Cool-season Introduced Grasses

Creeping Foxtail

Garrison	b I W A	b I W a	b I W a	BI W a	BI W a	BI W a	b I W a	BI W a	b I W a
Retain	b I W A	b I W a	b I W a	BI W a	BI W a	BI W a	b I W a	BI W a	b I W a

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Crested Wheatgrass

Hycrest	H B	H B	H B	H B	—	H B	H B	—	—
Nordan	h b	—	h b	h b	h b	—	—	—	—
NU-ARS-AC2	H B	H B	H B	H B	H B	H B	H B	—	—
Ruff	h b	h b	h b	h b	h b	h b	h b	—	—

Intermediate Wheatgrass (* Pubescent Types)

Amur	H s B I	h s b i	H s B I	H s B I	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i
Beefmaker	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	HS B I	HS B I	HS B I	HS B I
Clarke	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	HS B I	H s B I	H s B I	HS b I	HS b I
Haymaker	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	HS B I	HS B I	HS B I	HS B I
Luna *	HS B i	H s B i	H s B i	H s B i	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i
Mandan *	HS B i	H s B i	H s B i	H s B i	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i
Manska *	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	HS B I	HS B I	HS B I	HS B I
Oahe	H s B I	h s b i	H s B I	H s B I	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i
Reliant	h s b i	—	h s b i	h s b i	h s b i	—	—	—	—
Slate	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	H s B I	HS b I	HS b I

Meadow Brome

Fleet	b I	b I	b I	B I	B I	H B I	HS B I	h s b I	h s b I
Paddock	b I	b I	b I	B I	B I	H B I	HS B I	h s b I	h s b I
Regar	b I	b I	b I	B I	B I	H B I	HS B I	h s b I	h s b I

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Orchardgrass							75	73E	Both		
Comet	—	I w	—	—	B I w	I w	B	b	I w	H s B I	H S B I
Duke	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	H s B I	H s B I
Hallmark	—	i w	—	—	b i w	i w	b	b	i w	h s b i	h s b i
Napier	I	I w	I	I	h B I w	I w	B	b	I w	H s B I	H S B I
Paiute	h b i	h b i	h b i	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Potomac	—	i w	—	—	b i w	i w	b	b	i w	h s b i	h s b i
Sterling	I	I w	I	I	h B I w	I w	B	b	I w	H s B I	H S B I
Latar	—	I w	I	I	B I w	I w	B	b	I w	H s B I	H S B I

Reed Canarygrass (note some Reed Canarygrass is considered native, most Reed Canarygrass is not considered native)

Ioreed	i w	i w	i w	i w	h b i w	i w	h b i w	h b i w	h b i w
Palaton	i W	i W	i W	i W	h b i W	i W	h b i W	h B i W	h B i W
Rise	i w	i w	i w	i w	h b i w	i w	h b i w	h b i w	h b i w
Vantage	i w	i w	i w	i w	h b i w	i w	h b i w	h b i w	h b i w
Venture	i W	i W	i W	i W	h b i W	i W	h b i W	h B i W	h B i W

Russian Wildrye									
Bozoisky-Select	H s B I a	—	H s B I a	H s B I a	H s B I a	—	—	—	—
Mankota	H s B I a	—	H s B I a	H s B I a	H s B I a	—	—	—	—
Vinall	h s b i a	—	h s b i a	h s b i a	h s b i a	—	—	—	—

Smooth Brome

Badger	I	b I	b I	H B I	H B I	H s B I	H S B I	H S B I	H S B I
Lincoln	I	b I	b I	H B I	H B I	H s B I	H S B I	H S B I	H S B I
Lyon	I	b I	b I	H B I	H B I	H s B I	H S B I	H S B I	H S B I
Radison	I	b I	b I	H B I	H B I	H s B I	H S B I	H S B I	H S B I
Rebound	I	I	b I	H B I	H B I	H B I	H S B I	H S B I	H S B I

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³Tall Fescue

Alta	—	—	—	—	—	i	i	—	h b i a
Fawn	—	—	—	—	—	b i	h b i	h b i	h b i a
Forager	—	—	—	—	—	i	i	—	h b i a
Kenhy	—	—	—	—	—	b i	h b i	h b i	H B i a
Ky-31	—	—	—	—	h b i	b i	h b i	h b i	h b i a
Martin	—	—	i	i	i	i	h b i	h b i	H B i a
Mo-96	—	—	—	—	—	i	i	—	h b i a
Mozark	—	—	i	i	i	i	h b i	h b i	H B i a

Tall Wheatgrass

Alkar	b i w A	b i w A	b i w A	b i w A	b i w A	b i w A	h b i w A	h b i w A	h b i w A
Jose	b i w A	b i w A	b i w A	b i w A	b i w A	b i w A	h b i w A	h b i w A	h b i w A
Platte	b i w A	b i w A	b i w A	b i w A	b i w A	b i w A	h b i w A	h b i w A	h b i w A

Wheatgrass Hybrids

Newhy	h b I W A	h b I W A	h b I W A	h b I W A	h b I W A	h b I W A	—	—	—
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Warm-season Native Grasses

Big Bluestem

Bonilla	b	—	—	—	h s b i	—	—	h s b i	—
Champ ⁴	s B I	h S B i	H S B i	H S B i	H S B i	H S B i	h S b	h S b	h s b
Kaw	—	h B i	—	—	—	h s b i	H S B i	—	h s b i
Pawnee	—	H B i	—	h s b i	H s B i	H S B i	H S B i	H S B i	H S B i
Rountree	—	—	—	b i	h s b i	h b i	H s B i	H S B i	H S B i

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Blue Grama

Alma	—	h s b	—	—	—	—	h s b	—	h s b
Bad river	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b
Hachita	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b
Lovington	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b

Buffalograss

Bison	h b	h b	—	—	h b	h b	h b	h b	h b
Cody	h b	h b	—	—	h b	h b	h b	h b	h b
Plains	h b	h b	—	—	h b	h b	h b	h b	h b
Sharp's Improved	h b	h b	—	—	h b	h b	h b	h b	h b
Tatanka	h b	h b	—	—	h b	h b	h b	h b	h b
Texoka	h b	h b	—	—	h b	h b	h b	h b	h b

Eastern Gamagrass

Pete	—	—	—	—	—	—	h B i w	—	h B i w
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Indiangrass

Cheyenne	—	b i w	—	—	—	—	b i w	—	—
Holt	b i w	h s b i w	h s b i w	h s B i w	H S B i w	H S B i w	h s b i w	h s b i w	h s b i w
Nebraska 54	—	B i w	—	b i w	b i w	H S B i w	H S B i w	H S B i w	H S B i w
Osage	—	—	—	—	—	—	h s b i w	—	—
Oto	—	b i w	—	—	—	h s b i w	H S B i w	h s b i w	h s b i w
Rumsey	—	—	—	—	—	—	h b i w	h s b i w	H S B i w

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Little Bluestem

Aldous	—	b	—	—	—	h s b	H S B	h s b	h s b
Blaze	—	s b	—	—	h s b	S B	h s b	h s b	h s b
Camper	s b	h s b	s b	s b	H S B	H S B	h s b	h s b	h s b
Cimarron	H S B	H S B	H S B	H S B	—	h s b	h s b	—	—
Pastura	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	h s b	—	—

Prairie Sandreed

Goshen	h S b	h S b	h S b	h s b	s	h s b	h s b	—	—
Pronghorn	h S b	h S b	h S B	h S b	S	h S b	h S b	—	—
ND-95 (Bowman County)	h s b	---	h s b	h s b	s	h s b	----	—	—

Sand bluestem

Champ ⁴	s B i	h S B i	H S B i	H S B i	H S B i	H S B i	h S b	h S b	h s b
Garden County	S	S b	H S B i	H S B i	S b	S b	s	s	—
Goldstrike	S	S b	H S B i	H S B i	S b	S b	s	S	—

Sand Lovegrass

Bend	—	S b i	—	—	—	—	S b i	—	—
Nebraska 27	S b i	S b i	h S b i	h S b i	S b i	h S b i	h S b i	h S b i	h S b i

Sideoats Grama

Butte	H b i	H b i	H b i	h b i	h b i	h b i	h b i	h s a	h b i
El Reno	—	h s b i	—	—	—	—	h s b i	—	h s b i
Pierre	h b i	—	h b i	h b i	h s b i	—	—	h s	—
Trailway	—	b i	—	H b i	H b i	H b i	H s b i	H s b i a	H s b i

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Switchgrass

Blackwell	—	h s b i w	h s b i w	h s b i w	h s b i w	h s b i w	h s b i w a	h s b i w a	h s b i w a
Cave-in-Rock	—	—	—	—	—	h b i w	h s b i w	h s b i w	H s B i w
Forestburg	—	—	—	h s b i w	h s b i w a	—	—	h s b i w a	—
Kanlow	—	W	—	—	—	—	b i W a	—	b i W a
Nebraska 28	h s b i w	s b i w	h s b i w	h s b i w	h s b i w a	h s b i w	h s b i w	h s b i w a	—
Pathfinder	—	h s b i w	h s b i w	h s b i w	h s b i w a	h s b i w	h s b i w a	h s b i w a	h s b i w a
Shawnee	—	—	—	—	—	h b i w	H s B i w	H s B i w	H s B i w
Summer	—	—	—	h s b i w	h s b i w a	h s b i w	h s b i w a	h s b i w a	h s b i w a
Sunburst	—	—	—	—	h s b i w a	—	—	h s b i w a	—
Trailblazer	—	H s B i w	h s B i w	H S B i w	H S B i w a	H S B i w	H S B i w a	H S B i w a	H S B i w a

¹ Adapted varieties may be available (especially of smooth brome and orchardgrass) that are not listed here because of limited information or commercialization. As additional information becomes available adapted varieties will be added.

² Land resource areas are shown and identified by the accompanying map. Select varieties for use in each region and resource area are described below: H = hardlands, S = sands, B = bottomlands (moderately and somewhat poorly drained soils), I = irrigated, W = poorly and very poorly drained soils, A = alkali and saline. (Uppercase **Bold** letters designate varieties preferred for use as forage. Lower case letters indicate varieties adapted to the site for conservation, wildlife, and other uses.)

³ Use endophyte (fungus)-free tall fescue seed only if any forage use is possible.

⁴ Synthetic blend of plant material from both sandy and hardland sites. Use on sites adapted to either big or sand bluestem.